

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/918,727

Examiner

Cheukfan Lee

Applicant(s)

WATANABE, KOUJI

Art Unit

2627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to an amendment filed September 23, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-13.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____



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1. All pending claims 1-13 are allowed. Claims 1, 6, 7, 8, and 11 are independent.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-5 are allowable over the prior of record. The examiner agrees with Applicant on that the previously applied prior art Tone et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,460,251) does not disclose arrays of photodiodes where the arrays are divided into plurality of sections different in the number of pixels in a photodiode array direction, the respective sections connecting the corresponding ones of the transfer paths and the output terminals defined in claim 1. Please refer to Applicant's remarks filed one September 23, 2005, page 10, paragraph 2 to page 11, paragraph 2.

Claims 6 and 7 each include features similar to that discussed above for claim 1 and are allowable for the reason given for claim 1.

Claims 8 and 11 have been rewritten to include the limitations of claim 4, which was indicated allowable if rewritten in independent form in the previous Office Action dated March 28, 2005. Claims 8 and 11 and their dependent claims 9, 10, 12 and 13 are allowable over prior art of record. The closest prior art Tone et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,460,251) discloses a linear CCD array and not a device such as MOS type sensor that is based on an addressing system using switching transistors as the output transistors and using digital shift registers as the transfer paths as claimed.

Please note that although the previously applied Nagabusa (U.S. Patent No. 5,036,397) discloses a line sensor array that is divided into a plurality of regions, the

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middle or intermediate section having a number of pixels different from the number of pixels of the two end regions, Nagabusa does not disclose other claim limitations such as output transistors for outputting electric charges from the photodiodes of the array and transfer paths for transferring the electric charges from the output transistors to output terminals, in combination with the limitation(s) of the sensor or photodiode array(s) as claimed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cheukfan Lee whose telephone number is (571) 272-7407. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, (currently unknown) can be reached on (currently unknown). The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Cheukfan Lee
November 18, 2005



Cheukfan Lee